

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FOR USDOC/MARAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, UR

SUBJECT: FIRST FOREIGN CONTAINER VESSEL CALLS AT VOSTOCHNYI

1. PRAVDA, ON JULY 5, CARRIED BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE NEW DEEP WATER PORT OF VOSTOCHNYI IN THE SOVIET FAR EAST HAD RECEIVED ITS FIRST FOREIGN VESSEL, A JAPANESE SHIP, THE "SIBIRIYA MARU". DOCK AREA AT WHICH SHIP WAS LOADED WITH 200 CONTAINERS HAS BEEN IN OPERATION ONLY TWO MONTHS BUT ITS CONTAINER TERMINAL WILL BE CAPABLE DAILY OF LOADING 100 CONTAINERS ARRIVING FROM EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND JAPAN.

2. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO ARTICLE IN TASS VESTNIK OF MARCH 25, NEW PORT OF VOSTOCHNYI WILL HAVE A "VITAL INFLUENCE" ON THE OPERATION OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN LANDBRIDGE BETWEEN JAPAN - EUROPE. THE CONTAINER HANDLING AREA IS RATED TO HANDLE "60-70 THOUSAND CONTAINERS" OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD PER YEAR. ARTICLE STATES THAT COMPLEXES ALREADY EXIST AT VOSTOCHNUI FOR LOADING TIMBER AND WOOD CHIPS AND YET ANOTHER TO HANDLE COAL SHIPPED FROM YAKUTIA ON THE BAM AND DESTINED FOR JAPAN WILL BE FINISHED IN 1978. COMPLETION AND FULL OPERATION OF THESE FOUR COMPLEXES DURING 1976-80 WILL CONSTITUTE THE FIRST STAGE OF PORT DEVELOPMENT. CONSTRUCTION OF SEVEN ADDITIONAL CONTAINER HANDLING DOCKS IS PLANNED THEREAFTER.

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STOESSEL

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